

“Why I volunteer”,

by Jennifer McNeely, Steering Committee, AH Disaster Preparedness Grant 2012

Volunteering at Arbor Heights started out of an interest and a need. When I first met up with Meri Patton about the grant she was writing, I was immediately interested. It was right up my alley! I have an interest in emergency preparedness and there was definitely a need to get this grant and get AH prepared. It was a perfect match.

Something else happened, however. I noticed that going to the meetings, planning, and connecting with other AH parents was fulfilling in a way that I did not expect. I came to see that by volunteering, it was serving not only AH and my kids, but myself as well.

Through my volunteering, I have been able to brush up on my communication skills, network with new people and learn more about my community: skills that just about everyone can use! Think of volunteering as a way to boost your resume, learn about something that you’ve always been interested in, network, and make new friends. OH, AND help out the school, and your community.

Meri Patton spearheaded the efforts to write a grant for the Emergency Preparedness of Arbor Heights. The grant has been awarded from the Seattle City Neighborhood Grants! AH now has the funds to develop and implement the long term plans for Emergency Preparedness. Grant items include supplies, training and a community Outreach Event focused on community preparedness and hosted by Arbor Heights. This is an exciting time to be a part of the team of volunteers at Arbor Heights. Please look over the look over the positions below and see if anything speaks to you. Many hands make short work!

Limited Engagement: AH Emergency Preparedness GRANT POSITIONS:

1. Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will have involvement with the Outreach Event in October. Based on input from the Steering Committee, they will contact agreed upon community organizations to obtain their commitment to participate in October event in manner determined by Steering Committee (workshop, information table, demonstration, etc.). The Event Committee will then coordinate the actual participation of these community organizations, in manner agreed upon by Steering Committee.

This Committee will help build relationships with the community outside AH regarding disaster preparedness. Possible activities may be: attend neighborhood meetings, hand out flyers about preparedness, post notifications about our October event at AH, and build community support and awareness of the Disaster Preparedness Project at AH. The committee will be led by JoDean Edelhert, member of Steering Committee, and a Co-Chair (yet to be identified) representing Arbor Heights Elementary. With input and agreement from the Steering Committee, the Outreach Committee will determine outreach goals for obtaining the participation of community organizations and promoting event to secure attendees.

Persons Needed: 1 (AH Co-Chair) Additional volunteers will be requested as needed.

Skill Set: Outgoing and interested in community building.

Time commitment: flexible, probably heavier in May, June, September, and October. Some time needed after the event through end of grant, October 2013.

2. Administrative Committee

1 person is needed to assist this committee with data entry in an online system for the administration of the grant. Activities will be: to enter time data from volunteers into an online system, to upload and scan receipts from the Purchasing Committee to the online system, and to assist in submitting progress reports into the online system

Persons Needed: 1

Skill Set: basic computer skills, no accounting necessary, detail oriented

Time Commitment: 15-30 minutes per week, or 1-2 hours monthly, can be done at home, no meetings required! Data entry of time will be ongoing through grant completion, October 2013. (Includes VERY minimal time entry in the summer months.)

3. Outcomes Committee

The Outcomes Committee will consist of only one person. This person will, with direction from the Outreach and Steering committee, create and track proposed "Outcomes" from the grant activities for submittal to the City. Examples may be: Count how many people received flyers at Outreach events, count attendance at October Outreach Event, note preparedness changes at AH and document in terms of the original grant proposal.

Persons Needed: 1

Skill Set: Writing skills a plus, someone detail orientated and a creative thinker. Someone with a marketing type vision who can help shape perspective on the outcomes of our efforts. Make us sound AWESOME!

Time commitment: minimal at first, then 1.5-2 hours per month, minimal meetings. Time commitment will be through the end of the grant, October, 2013.

4. Event Committee

The Event Committee needs a super lead person to direct the main outreach event in October. This person will be responsible for developing the committee into a full functioning committee and to bring the event to fruition. This is a perfect job for an events coordinator type who wants to bring this project to life. Use your party planning skills to help us and create a resume worthy evening! The chair of this committee will have the input and direction of both the Steering Committee and the Outreach Committee. The chair will develop and facilitate a team to see the event to completion. This position coordinates with Outcomes to report back to the city

Persons Needed: 1 Chair Position

Skill Set: Party planning, event coordinating, outgoing and ability to bring others on board,

Time Commitment: Minimal now, more as we approach event date in October. Commitment will end with the completion of the event.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Meri and the Steering Committee at : Meri_patton@yahoo.com